

## *Key actions to progress on water and health issues and promote equitable access in FRANCE*

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## I – Self assessment exercise at a metropolitan scale Greater Paris urban area

- Paris metropolitan area is a totally urbanized area with more than 99% of the population (7M) with access to W&S services
- Eau de Paris and SEDIF/Veolia (W), and SIAAP (S), are the leading companies for the management of W&S services
- Nearly 20% of the French population is directly impacted
- The area has high average incomes but social disparities



- The objective was to have a global assessment & to identify improvement axes
- The “equitable access” scorecard was the shared base for carrying out the work
- A dedicated project team was composed of the major utilities & City of Paris
- Two day workshops were set up with the pilot team, experts and stakeholders : ministries, health regional agency, river bassin agency, NGO’s (consumers, human rights) and trade union, so the discussions were intersectoral by nature
- The timing was from Dec. 2012 to May 2013 (expert group Meeting) : 6 months
- It gave a broader understanding of the situation by identifying initiatives & gaps



## I – Self assessment exercise at a metropolitan scale

### Main findings useful for the national authorities

- The governance frameworks to deliver equitable access to W&S exist
- Specific funds exist to help the poorest to pay their water charges
- There is a high level of access to W&S (more than 99%)
- The needs of vulnerable or marginalised groups have been partially addressed in Paris : 400 public toilets, 1200 fountains, 18 shower places

The focus areas that should be further studied are the followings :

- Geographical disparities in terms of tariff can be important
  - Access to W&S is linked to housing : according to NGO Fondation Abbé Pierre, 140 000 homeless people did not have access to drinking water in France in 2013
  - Access of vulnerable and marginalised groups can be improved
  - Affordability is a key issue : for some people the water bill still represents more than 3% of their income, which is the acceptable level)
- A Parisian Partnership for the fight against main exclusion was launched in 2015 and aimed at coordinating actions of the City and institutions for the poorest people



## II – Equitable access to W&S as a part of a broader Water policy

A high level evaluation of water policy was conducted in France in 2013. The Report (A.m Levrault) is the result of a long-term work from the general inspectorates of the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Finance and the General Inspectorate of Administration.

- The report highlights that the legislative principles of water policy consensus are : water as a common heritage for the Nation ; the right of everyone to use water and to have access to a quality drinking water at an affordable cost ; the “polluter pays” principle ( “water pays for water“)
- The management of small water cycle is satisfactory : access to clean water is guaranteed ; the upgrading of public sanitation ends ; the sewerage is now framed ; the price of water is within the European average
- The overseas regions however are experiencing a structural gap that fully justifies the inter-basin solidarity



### III – 3<sup>rd</sup> National Plan on Health and Environment 2015-2019

- Affirmation of the Government's objective to reduce as much as possible and more effectively the impact of environmental factors on public Health
- Structuration around 4 broad categories of issues : priority health issues, challenges of knowledge of exposures and their effects, research, local action and information
- Strong commitment on several actions in the area of water safety

- Action 32 : monitor emerging priority substances in aquatic environments and resources of water intended for human consumption (perchlorates, bisphenol A and substances of the family of nitrosamines, parabens and phthalates)
- Action 43 : analyze the incidence of legionellosis disparities in the territory (west-east gradient, for instance the factor 10 between the regions Brittany and Alsace)
- Action 53 : develop a new plan on "micropollutants" (including drug residues issue)
- Action 55 : promote the establishment of safety plans for drinking water supply
- Action 56 : implement catchment protection used for drinking water supply against accidental pollution and diffuse pollution (nitrates and pesticides)
- Action 58 : participate in the European work on the definition of criteria for the REUSE of treated waste water



## III – 3<sup>rd</sup> National Plan on Health and Environment 2015-2019

It provides in part 4 which aims at strengthening the health-environment dynamics in the territories, information, communication and training :

Action 101: support equitable access to safe drinking W&S

- 1<sup>st</sup> Objective is to Promote at a regional level the tools of the Protocol in the context of the political commitment of ensuring equitable access and their use by communities and their delegated services for W&S



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Objective is to Define and Implement specific action plans in Regional Health and Environment Plan : an instruction will be addressed to regional health agencies  
→ promote the implementation of evaluation exercises at regional or local level  
→ promote awareness of decision makers and operators to issues of equity in access to safe drinking W&S

-This theme will especially be taken into account in the French overseas regions



## IV – 2<sup>nd</sup> National Plan on Household Sanitation 2015-2019 Launched in 2014 by the Ministries of Health and Environment

- Household sanitation is the mode of treatment of domestic wastewater for non-connected households to public sewerage
- There are more than 4000 public services on household sanitation (SPANC)
- This sanitation process is particularly prevalent in sparsely populated areas
- The sewerage is a challenge for health and the environment and generates significant installation costs for individuals
- Nearly 20% of the French population is directly concerned



Ministries have taken regulatory provisions to frame it, with the following issues :

- Improving the facilities reliability (in the fields of design, maintenance, control)
- Implementing the devices in a logic of sustainable development
- Developing a public understanding of issues related to the impact of these facilities on the environment and public health
- Taking into account the financial difficulties related to the cost for the population (ecological loan to zero rate, combined with features of tax credits)



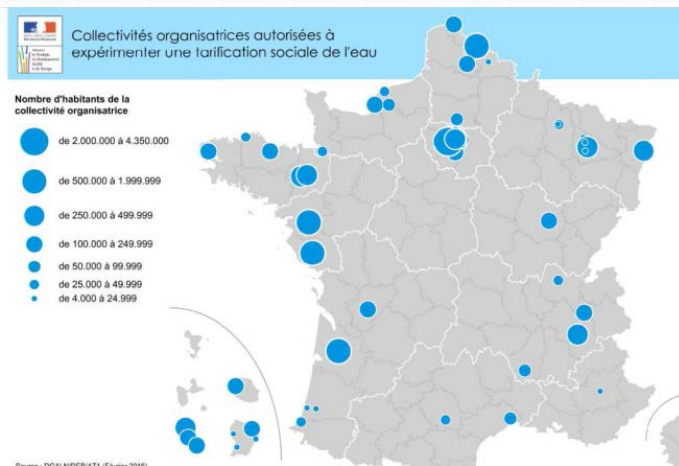
## V – Action plan for Improving drinking water affordability

- The experiment for social tariffs of the Law "Brottes" (2013) aims at bringing operational solutions to make water available in economic conditions acceptable for all, in accordance with article L 210-1 of the Environmental Code
- Given the specific organization of W&S services (30000 water services with 4 or more involved services on the water bill), this experiment was launched to identify solutions adapted to different situations, assessing the impact on various users and management costs

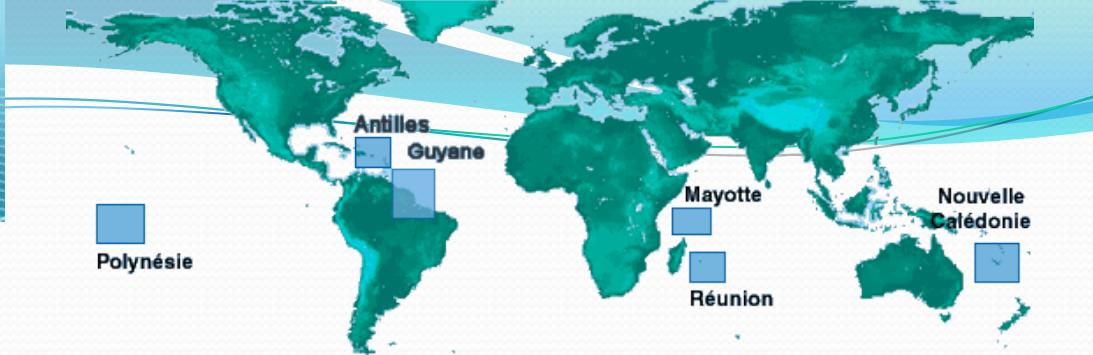
-The experiment for the implementation of the Right to water and organizing a social water pricing began in 2015, after the publication of the governmental decrees establishing the official list of water services authorities allowed to participate

→ It involves 50 communities related to 12 M citizens

- The National Water Committee (CNE, “Water parliament”), and the Advisory Committee on the price and quality public W&S services, are in charge of drafting the evaluation reports of the experiment







## VI – Proposals for a water action plan in Overseas regions General inspection of the Ministry of Environment (2016)

- From the great diversity of situations in French overseas regions, emerges a general observation : the difficulties of a part of public W&S services are handicaps for social and economic development of these territories
  - Rapid progress in these areas is a necessary condition for improving altogether the Health and environment
  - Specific development need of W&S services exists in Mayotte and French Guiana
- The report (P.A Roche, CGEDD) proposes to support an ambitious action plan in consolidating governance of the W&S services
- The report proposes to progressively move from the current financing system of piecemeal investments, which is not adapted to the challenges of management and maintenance recorded, at new ways of global and middle term contracting ( "progress contracts")

Merci pour votre attention  
Благодарим Вас за внимание



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